(b) if so, whether the smuggling activities are on the increase near Indian shore over the years;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the preventive steps taken or proposed to be taken by the Government to check these smuggling activities?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI RAMESHWAR THAKUR): (a) Yes, Sir

(b) and (c) Since smuggling is a clandestine activity, it is not possible to say whether smuggling activities near the Indian shores has increased. However, the value of contraband goods seized by the Customs authorities on the Western and Eastern coasts of the country during the last three years, are given in the table below:

Year	*Value (Rs. in crores)*
1	*2*
1989	404.81
1990	569.92
1991 *(upto June)	388.77

*Figure is provisional.

(d) The anti-smuggling drive has been intensified and the anti-smuggling machinery throughout the country especially in the vulnerable areas of the coastline has been geared up. Close co-ordination is being maintained with all the agencies concerned in the detection and prevention of smuggling. The Custms officers have been equipped with vessels, vehicles, firearms, night vision binoculars etc. for combating smuggling activities more effectively. A telecommunication network has also been provided to the field formations.

Appointments in Punjab National Bank on Compassionate Grounds

5912. SHRI DHARAMPAL SINGH MALIK: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any family member of an employee of Punjab National Bank who dies in service is given employment in the bank on compassionate grounds;

(b) if so, the number of appointments made on compassionate grounds during 1991, so far;

(c) the rank given in such cases;

(d) whether there is any policy for giving rank to a person appointed on compassionate grounds;

(e) if so, the details thereof;

(f) whether any departure has been made while appointing persons on compassionate grounds during the last two years; and

(g) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI DALBIR SINGH): (a) to (g). Punjab National Bank has reported that it has formulated a scheme in terms of Government guidelines for employment of family members of its employees who die in service for appointment in the bank, on compassionate grounds. Under the scheme, the appointment is normally made only in subordinate/clerical cadres. However, in the case of exceptionally qualified dependents, the bank may consider with the prior approval of the Government their appointment in its officers' cadre. The Bank has

further reported that 85 persons have been appointed by it on compassionate grounds during the year 1991 so far, of which in one case the wife of a deceased officer has been appointed in its officers' cadre with the approval of the Government.

Decanalisation of Value Added Mica Products.

5913. SHRI BINODE BIHARI MAHATO: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether large items of value added mica products have been decanalised;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the date of decanalisation alongwith the names of the items;

(c) the impact of it on export of mica products; and

(d) the achievements, if any after decanalisation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) Value added mica products were at no stage canalised. As such, the question of decanalisation does not arise.

(b) to (d). Do not arise.

Transfer and Promotion policy of Assistants in G.I.C.

5914. DR. KRUPASINDHU BHOI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a job-oriented course in general insurance has been introduced in 10 plus 2 system of C.B.S.E. for recruitment to the post of Assistant in General Insurance Corporation;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the promotion avenues of the Assistants recruited in the G.I.C. under this scheme; and

(d) the promotion/transfer policy of G.I.C. for the Assistants?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE(SHRI DALBIR SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A two-year vocational course in General Insurance was introduced in 10 plus 2 system of CBSE selected schools located at Delhi, Madras, Bombay Calcutta and Chandigarh on experimental basis as pilot project. Students passing 10th Standard with atleast 60% marks in English and Mathematics are eligible to seek admission to this course. Students passing Class XII examination conducted by the CBSE with atleast 50% marks in the aggregate in the following subject viz. (1) English, (2) Business Studies, (3) Marine Cargo and Hull Insurance, (4) Engineering and Loss of Profits, (5) Rural and Crop Insurance, and subject to an interview and medical examination, will be eligible for appointment as "Assistant" in the General Insurance Industry for a period of one year at a stipend of Rs.1000/- per month. After successful completion of apprenticeship they would be appointed as Assistants on a regular basis at the prevailing salary grade;

(c) and (d). The promotion and transfer policy as applicable to the Assistants in the General Insurance Industry would also equally apply to these Assistants recruited through the vocational stream.

Cash Dealings in Banks

5915. SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have di-